

Message Text

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SUBJ: MEETING OF PRC SUBCOMMITTEE ON TREATY IMPLEMENTATION

1. THE PANAMA REVIEW COMMITTEE'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON TREATY
IMPLEMENTATION HELD ITS SECOND MEETING JULY 31. THE
FOLLOWING WERE AMONG THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED:

A. THE PANAMANIAN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR
IMPLEMENTATION IS LOOKING OVER PANCANAL'S TRANSLATION OF
THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT'S BASIC PLANNING DOCUMENT:
"EL DESARROLLO NACIONAL Y LA RECUPERACION DE LA ZONA
DEL CANAL DE PANAMA". THE TRANSLATION IS EXPECTED TO BE
READY FOR REPRODUCTION IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. COPIES WILL
BE POUCHED.

B. PANCANAL HAS OBJECTED TO THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ON
PRISONER EXCHANGE. PANCANAL BELIEVES THAT THE TREATY
SHOULD ALLOW THE PRISONER TO CHOOSE BY HIMSELF WHETHER TO
SERVE HIS SENTENCE IN HIS OWN NATION'S PRISON, RATHER
THAN ALLOW BOTH THE TRANSFERRING AND RECEIVING COUNTRIES
TO HAVE A VETO. JUSTICE DEPT. LAWYER MICHAEL ABBELL WILL
BE IN TOWN AUGUST 2 THROUGH 3 TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH
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SOUTHCOM, PANCANAL, THE EMBASSY AND THE PANAMANIAN
GOVERNMENT. (SINCE THE PRC SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ABBELL
MET WITH EACH OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED. HE BROACHED WITH
LOPEZ-GUEVARA THE POSSIBILITY OF A TWO-TRACK TREATY,
ALLOWING FOR THE PRISONER'S UNILATERAL ELECTION OF
WHETHER TO SERVE IN PANAMA OR THE U.S. IN CASES OF
PANCANAL AND DOD CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES. ALL OTHER AMERICANS

AND ALL PANAMANIAN WOULD REQUIRE THREE-PARTY AGREEMENT AS IN OTHER U.S. PRISONER EXCHANGE TREATIES. LOPEZ-GUEVARA WAS RECEPTIVE BUT BOTH HE AND ABBELL MADE CLEAR THAT THEY WERE SPEAKING WITHOUT THEIR GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORIZATION.)

C. IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER PANAMANIAN WOULD BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND THE CANAL ZONE COLLEGE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH ALONG WITH OTHER EDUCATION PROBLEMS. I.E., ONCE DOD HAS DECIDED ITS ADMISSION POLICY FOR ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY AND COLLEGE-LEVEL SCHOOLS, THE QUESTION WOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH PANAMA IN THE INFORMAL BI-NATIONAL COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BE THE PREDECESSOR OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE.

D. THE SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSED AND PASSED TO THE PRC THE EMBASSY'S PROPOSED NOTE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO OBTAIN SCHOOL, HOSPITAL, PX AND OTHER PRIVILEGES FOR MISSION PERSONNEL. SOUTHCOM HAS REQUESTED THAT THE AMBASSADOR ALSO SEEK TO GET PRIVILEGES FOR RETIRED MILITARY AND CERTAIN OTHER PERSONNEL, AND THE AMBASSADOR HAS AGREED.

E. THE SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSED AND PASSED ON TO THE PRC THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BI-NATIONAL WORKING GROUP (THE GOP-PANCANAL COMMITTEE) SHOULD BE FORMALLY DESIGNATED A MEMBER OR SHOULD CONTINUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO ATTEND AS AN OBSERVER.

F. THE SOUTHCOM REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT THE CINC IS CONCERNED ABOUT PERSISTENT RUMORS THAT FACILITIES WHICH WILL REVERT TO PANAMA ARE BEING ALLOWED TO DETERIORATE. THE SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSED WAYS IN WHICH THE MAINTENANCE EFFORTS OF PANCANAL AND SOUTHCOM COULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PANAMANIAN PUBLIC.

2. THE SUBCOMMITTEE ALSO DISCUSSED THE WORK OF THE BI-NATIONAL WORKING GROUP IN REFINING ITS COMMITTEE STRUCTURE. IT NOW HAS 23 COMMITTEES, ONLY TWO OF WHICH -- ENVIRONMENT AND SURVEYING -- ARE ACTIVE, SO FAR. (THE OSTENSIBLE REASON FOR THE WORKING GROUP'S MEETING HAS BEEN TO PREPARE FOR A MEETING BETWEEN GOVERNOR PARFITT AND EDWIN FABREGA AUGUST 2. THIS MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED BECAUSE OF FABREGA'S ABSENCE FROM THE COUNTRY.)
JORDEN

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